

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6364
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Harmful Effects of Social Media
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US-based radiological association has published a report which claims that use of social media including the use of smart phones are harmful to humans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any research study in view of the said report; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) Madam, no such report, published by US-based radiological association, which claims that use of social media including the use of smart phones are harmful to humans, has been brought into the knowledge of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). However, there are studies which have evaluated the impact of excessive use of social media/ internet, mobile phone etc. Institute like National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru has been providing consultation to the patients of internet addiction at its specialized outpatient department (OPD). National Mental Health Programme also addresses these issues in its clinical interventions.

Further, some concerns regarding ill effects of electromagnetic emission on human health, from use of mobile phone, have also been raised. However, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its Fact Sheet 193 published in June 2011 has concluded that "A large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use".
